# BHAGIRATHPUR EXCAVATIONS AND A 15TH CENTURY INSCRIPTION[1]

By

*Krishna Kanta Mishra.*

## *Description of Finds*[2]

(1) *BUILDING STRUCTURE*:—The structure of the building is situated in a field in village Bhagirathpur (P. O. Davaith Nathwan, via Pandaul, P.S. Madhubani (Thana No. 92) Plot No. 470/472) west of District Board road no. 18, from Madhubani to Pandaul at an approximate distance of 53′ 7·2.″.

The actual digging work was taken up from the eastern side and a thick wall measuring 28′ 3″ was traced out after 2′ digging. Prior to our excavation the owner of the land had cleared about 3′ of soil. As such we can infer that after 5′ of digging all these finds were traced out. The wall (lower layer) is approximately 4′ 5″ wide. On the north there are link-walls forming into rooms. The first room from the eastern side is approximately 7′ 7·2″ in length. The second room is 7′ 5·1″ in length and the third 8′ 1·3″. The third room has been discovered intact and has its northern wall somewhat circular.

The entire thick (basis) wall so far excavated measures 28′ 3″ and stands between the east and the west. It seems on the south, too, there are links for further apartments. It is particularly noteworthy that the partition walls are not more than 1′ 3·8″ in breadth. The thick (basis) wall seems to have two layers—the lower layer measuring 4′ 5″ and the upper layer of the wall 2′ 5·4″.

1. The inscription is dated वेद-रन्ध्र-हरनेत्रचिह्निते लक्ष्मणस्य नृपतेर्म्मतेब्दके, which may be interpreted as 304 L.S. (=1423 A. D.) or 394 L.S. (=1513 A. D.) as रन्ध्र stands for 0 (शून्य) and 9 (nine) both.

2. Upon receipt of information from Dr. Rajkumar Mishra of Pandaul

(2) *BONES AND HORNS*:—Just adjacent to room No. 2 after digging up about 2′, small bones (probably of a goat) have been found at one place and just near the place where a stone door-socket (on which the inscription in Mithilakshara has been found) the broken horns of an animal (probably of a buffalo) and a big bone have been found after one foot of earth was dug up. It is significant that these bones seem to have a co-related history. Further investigation in this respect is being carried out.

(3) *TYPES OF BRICKS*:—The usual full bricks measure $8\frac{1}{2}'' \times 6\frac{1}{2}''$ and carved bricks have less measurement. Approximately after two feet of lower surface clearance different types of ornamented and decorated big slabs have been discovered. One peculiar brick has a betel-like design, and another has the design as it is found in the older Hindu temples. It is creditable that there was a fine art of workmanship on stones and bricks present even in this part of India (that is Mithila) in the early 15th century. These carved bricks in the second layer with the connected links indicate that these three apartments were meant for special purposes and must have been put to use by important personalities. On few bricks it seems there are specimens of some *tantric chakras.*

(4) *TWO BROKEN PORTIONS OF STONE SLABS*:—There are at present two such slabs discovered from there. The bigger one is about 3′ 6·5″ in length and smaller 1·6″. The bigger has a very carving and chiselling work. Both are quite heavy. The bigger one indicate that it was the upper portion of a stony wall which was supported by some pillars. There are

about the discovery of a pillar, one mile north of Pandaul Bazar, P. O. Pandaul, perg. Hati, P. S. Madhubani, District Darbhanga, I along with a batch of 17 students of C. M. College, Darbhanga, personally visited the spot on the 14th Nov. '54.

We first inspected and examined the pillar and later on reached the field where the pillar was found. The field was under cultivation and some cereal was sown in the field. Out of curiosity, the students with the active support and consent of the local public began to excavate nearly the spot where the pillar was found. By 2 P. M. after cautious efforts, a long wall with its separate links were visible. By evening, a complete room measuring 8′1·3″ × 5′ 7·2″ was excavated.

straight carvings on these stones and it seems that this design was a continuous design. The lower portion of the smaller stone-slab has ordinary decoration, but the upper left corner indicates that in the upper side it formed another beautiful artistic workmanship.

(5) *THE INSCRIPTION*:—The inscription is carved by a skilled scribe with a beautiful handwriting in Mithilaksara on the door-socket. The entire stone is 4′ 3·7″ in length and 5″ in breadth. The stone used is a sandstone and there is $\frac{1}{2}$ dark plaster on it. The deepness of inscribed letters is $\frac{1}{4}$″. There are six lines of equal size and measure. But only $5\frac{1}{2}$ lines are readable. It has marks of digging by spade. Every line is self contained and one *sloka* is complete in every line. The script is Mithilaksara and verses are in fine Sanskrit. It is supposed to be a very clear cut inscription.

This door socket was discovered by a labourer who was making the *Bitha land* a cultivable land and the inscription stone was found at a distance of about five feet the original surface. The field belongs to a Muslim Mussomat. Information could be had by the celebrated gentleman Dr. Rajkumar Mishra about it and he with the help of the Anchaladhikari of Pandaul removed it to a safer place after much persuasion. It is regretted that the exact depth and position at which the stone was actually found could not be known or recorded due to ignorance of the labourer. For an archaeologist, these things are of utmost value. It may be noted here that the person who ordered for this inscription to be carved must have also ordered for other similar inscriptions and historical articles to be used at this place so that the posterity might realize the importance of this place.

On the 17th November, 1954, Principal Shri A. K. Mukherjee of C. M. College, Darbhanga, along with Professors Ramanatha Jha, Tantranatha Jha and Krishnakanta Mishra visited the site of excavation and examined the inscription which has been deciphered by Prof. Ramanath Jha and Tantranath Jha as follows:—

## THE TEXT

सिद्धिः ॥ स्नुषा हरिनरायण-क्षितिपतेर्ग्गते क्ष्माभृतां
बधून्नृपतिमण्डलीमहितराम भूमीपतेः ।
द्विजोत्तमसुखप्रदा नृपति-कंसनारायण-
-प्रवीरजननी मुदा मठमचीकरत् सुन्दरम् ॥१॥
दानैर्य्या दलयाम्बभूव जगतां दारिद्र्यमत्युत्कटं
कीर्त्या या– –सुन्दरतरान् लोकाँश्चकारायुतान् । (4 latters blurred)
किञ्चोच्चैर्ब्बिनयान्नयाच्च वशतां नीता यया बान्धवाः
सेयं विश्वविलक्षणोज्ज्वलगुणग्रामा मठं निर्ममे ॥२॥
वेद-रन्ध्र-हरनेत्रचिह्निते[1] लक्ष्मणस्य नृपतेर्म्मतेब्दके ।
विश्वविश्रुतगुणा गुणालयं देवतालयममुं मुदाऽकरोत् ॥३॥
कविता माधव-सुकवेः कीर्त्तिर्द्देव्याः सुधाम्बुधिस्फीता ।
त्रिभुवनभुवनाभोगे विलसतु कल्पान्तपर्यन्तम् ॥४॥
देवी देवालयमियममुं कारयामास कृच्छ्रे
भक्त्या नक्तंदिनमथ मति – – – – क्ता । (6 letters not read)
यैषा शेषे जगति जगतीनाथ नाथस्य योषा
भूषाभूता विविधविधया रूपनारायणस्य ॥५॥

Still obscure Requires re-reading. } धन्या का कीर्त्तिरम्या कुलधर-कविना कीर्त्तिनीयानुमत्या Letters
लक्ष्मीः सा कापि लक्ष्मीधरमुपगता माधवाराधनाय । blurred

सूनुज्ज्यर्यायान् यदीयो यवनपतिभयाधायकस्तीरभुक्तौ Letters blurred
राजाराजाधिराजः समर– –सः कंसनारायणोसौ ॥६॥ Letters blurred
– – – – – – –श्रीमदनुमतिदेवीनामाज्ञया – – Last two
– – – – – – – – – – – – – – ॥श्रीरस्तु॥ lines mostly defaced

*Translation of the Inscription:—*

1. The daughter-in-law of King Harinarayan who was refuge to kings, wife of king Rama who was celebrated in the company of kings,......and mother of the great warrior king Kamsanarayana......the lady, who gave delight to the best of the Brahmanas, got this beautiful temple (Matha) erected.

2. Mithila's *Panji* records as well as the history of Mithila reveal that the date 394 L. S.(=1513 A.D.) is more probable (of the inscription). See my paper 'The Date of Bhagirathpur Inscription' submitted to Indian History Congress, Ahmedabad Session.

2. Through her gifts she destroyed the great poverty of the world; through her glory, she rendered tens of thousands of people beautiful......................; through her modesty and her policy, moreover, she brought under her control her relatives ..........such a repository of bright qualities unique in the world got this temple built.

3. In the year signed as 394 of the king Lakshmana, this lady of world renowned fame got this abode of the God full of many qualities, constructed with great pleasure.

4. The poetry of good poet, Madhava, and the glory of queen, thriving as the sea of nectar, may shine till eternity in the regions of the three worlds.

5. The queen got this abode of the God constructed in the course of an austerity (Krichhra) working day and night with devotion ...............................the queen who was the wife of Rupanarayana the lord of lords of earth, and was in the last stage of her existence on ornament in different ways.

6. ..........................................for devotion of Madhava,.........whose eldest son, a terror in Tirhut to the king of the Yavanas, is this king of kings, Kamsanarayana.

7. .................by orders of queen Anumati, full glory......

The C. M. College, Darbhanga is intending to excavate the site further, after obtaining permission from the Government and it will be possible for us to know much more details about the history of Mithila after a scientific excavation is carried out at the place. Dr. Rajkumar Mishra, the local gentleman and the Anchaladhikari deserve our special thanks for timely information given on the sixth November, 1954. Without their co-operation these things would not have come to light.

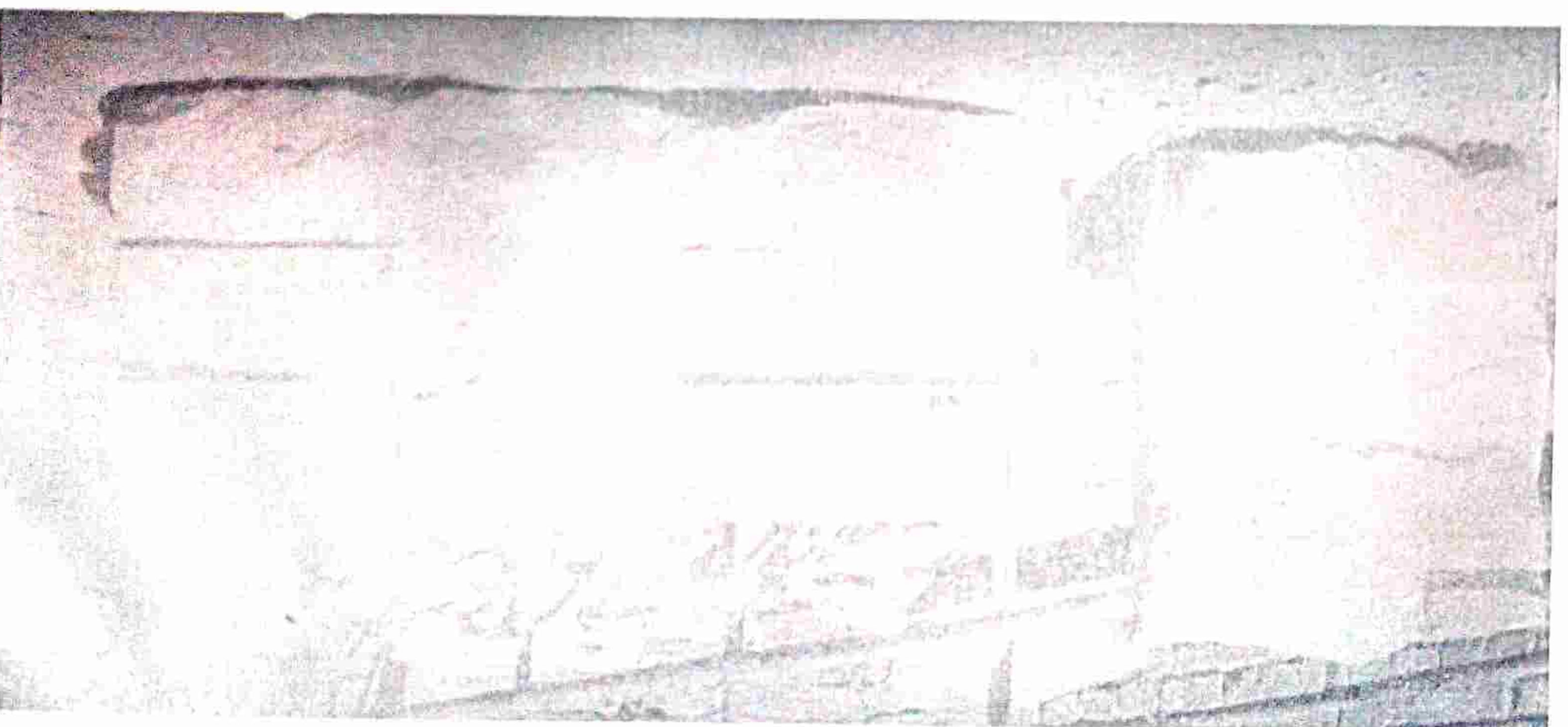
(Note :—Four letters in the 2nd line of the 2nd verse & six letters in the second line of the 5th verse, have not been read. The first half of the sixth verse has not been satisfactorily read and the last line which is perhaps the 7th verse is almost obliterated and also partly damaged beyond repairs).



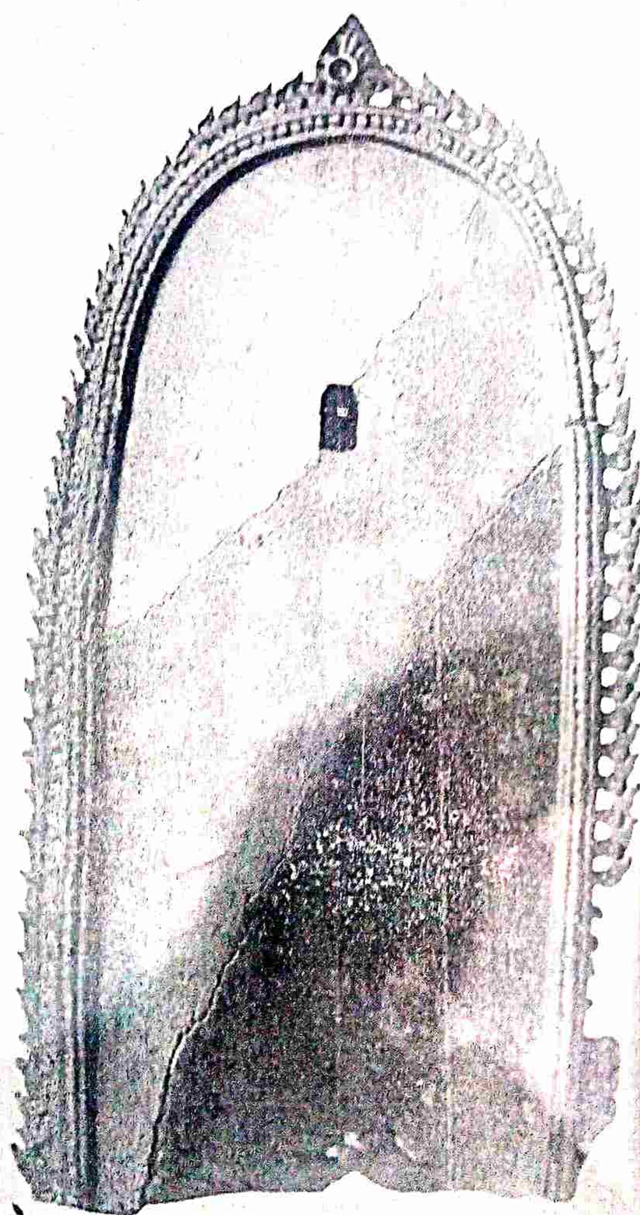
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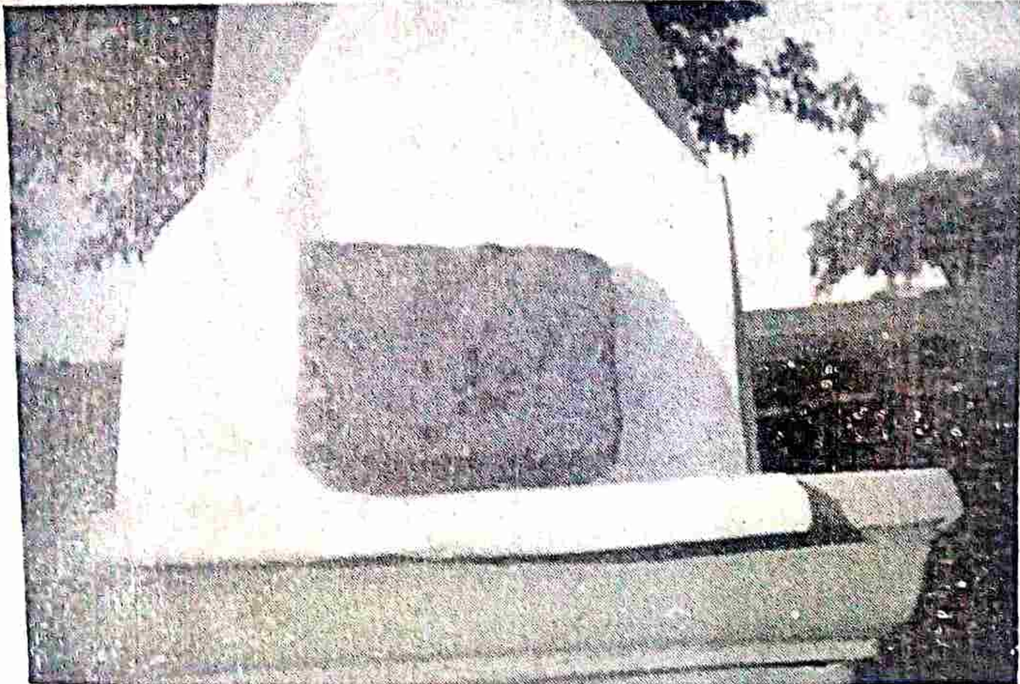


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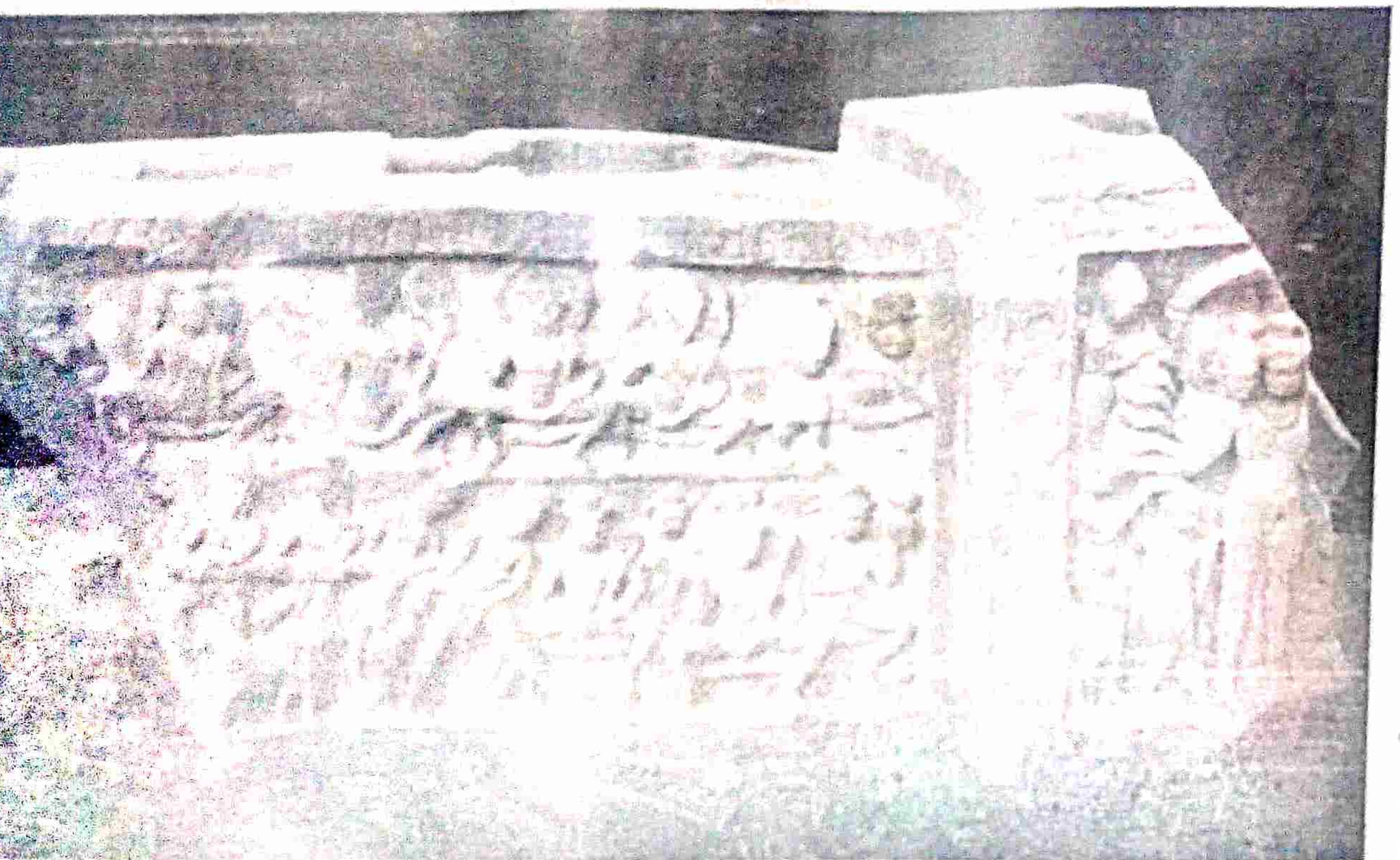


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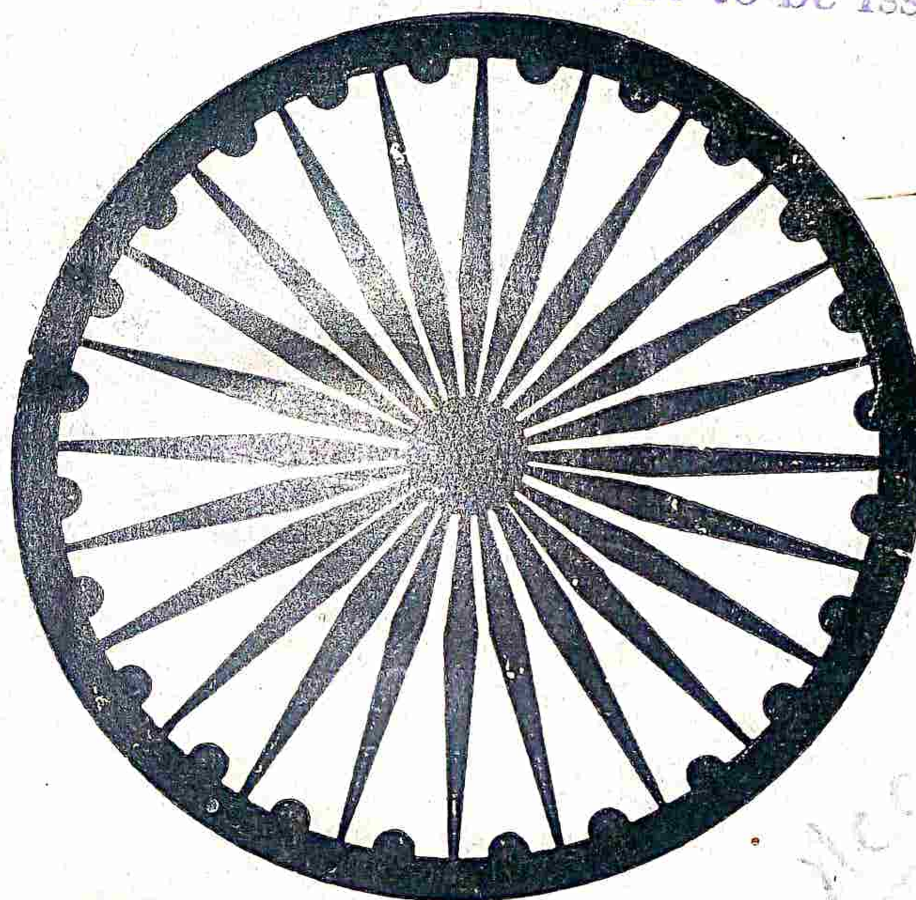
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